

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to more particularly point out that the halo section in Applicants' indicator knob assembly is adapted for emitting light from the base for illumination, as stated in original claims 7 and 13, and described in paragraph 020.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC § 102(e) based on Gamelsky et al.

Claims 1-3, 7-9, 13-14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,471,648, issued to Gamelsky et al. in 2002.

The rejection points to knob 300 in Fig. 4 of Gamelsky et al. as anticipating Applicants' invention. The figure lacks proper cross-hatching, which renders the drawing less clear. Knob 300 comprises an outer member 440 that is coupled to rotatable shaft 410, col. 3, lines 34-36. An inner member 430, which includes integral inner cap 435, is fixed to bezel 425 and is spaced apart from outer member 440. This separation allows knob to rotate relative to the inner member 430, col. 3, lines 49-52. Thus, the inner member 430 is not part of knob 300. In contrast, Applicants' knob assembly comprises an appliqué mounted on a translucent base and an opaque over mold mounted on the appliqué. The rejection incorrectly points to the outer member in Gamelsky et al. as corresponding to the appliqué in Applicants' invention. Applicants are using appliqué to mean a decorative film applied to a surface, as the term is normally understood, see

paragraph 0004. With this understanding, it is apparent that the outer member in Gamelsky et al. is not an appliqué. The rejection also points incorrectly to the inner member 430 in Gamelsky et al. as corresponding to the base in Applicants' knob. However, whereas in Gamelsky et al. the inner member is fixed and separate from the rotatable outer section that carries the overmolded grip, in Applicants' knob assembly, the appliqué and the over mold are applied to the base. Rather Applicants contend that a fair reading of Gamelsky et al. reveals that the outer member is comparable to the base in Applicants' assembly, but with the important distinction that the outer member in Gamelsky et al. does not include a halo section. Moreover, Gamelsky et al. provides illuminating ring 433 that is part of the inner member, not the rotatable outer member, and so does not need or contemplate halo illumination by the outer member. Therefore, Gamelsky et al. does not teach, or even suggest, Appellants' invention.

Claim 1 is directed to Applicants' indicator knob assembly that includes, as major elements, a translucent base, an appliqué element, and an opaque over mold. The base includes a halo section, and the appliqué element is mounted on the base. In Gamelsky et al., the outer member is not an appliqué; the overmolded grip is mounted on the outer member, the illuminating ring is separate from and so not part of the outer member. Accordingly, Gamelsky et al. does not show a translucent base that defines a halo section on the lower portion of the outer surface. Therefore, Gamelsky et al. does not anticipate, or even suggest, Applicants' indicator knob assembly set forth in claim 1, or in claims 2-5 and 7 dependent thereon.

Claim 8 is also directed to Applicants' indicator knob assembly that includes a base with a halo section, an appliqué element and an opaque over mold. In Gamelsky et al., the inner member with the illuminating ring and the outer member with the overmolded grip are separate and distinct. Therefore, Gamelsky et al. does not teach or suggest Applicants' invention as set forth in claim 8 or dependent claims 9 and 13.

Claim 14 is directed to Applicants' method of displaying the position of an indicator knob. The steps include transmitting light through a base member. A portion of the base is covered with an opaque over mold to prevent light emission. Light is emitted from a halo section that is not covered. In Gamelsky et al., an overmolded grip covers outer member 440, and the outer member does not emit light from a halo section. The inner member, from which light is emitted, is not covered by the overmolded grip. Therefore, Gamelsky et al. does not anticipate Applicants' method set forth in claim 14 or dependent claim 16.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of the claims based upon Gamelsky et al. be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that the claims be allowed.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC § 103 based on Gamelsky et al.

Claims 4-5, 10-11 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Gamelsky et al. in view of Prior Art disclosed in the Background of the Invention of the present application.

Claims 4-5 are dependent upon claim 1; claims 10-11 are dependent upon claim 8;

and claim 15 is dependent upon claim 14. For the reasons set forth above, Gamelsky et al. does not teach or even suggest Applicants' invention set forth in the independent claims 1, 8 and 14. It follows that the reference cannot show the invention in the dependent claims.

The Prior Art discussed by Applicants does not make up the deficiencies in the primary reference. The rejection points to Applicants' Background to show daytime and lowlight screening. However, nothing in the Background leads the practitioner to eliminate the illuminating ring in Gamelsky et al. and modify the overmolded grip to provide a halo section for emitting illumination from the outer member. Thus, even when read with Applicants' Background, Gamelsky et al. still does not point to Applicants' indicator knob assembly set forth in claim 1 or 8, or their method in claim 14, or in claims 4-5, 10-11, and 15 dependent thereon.

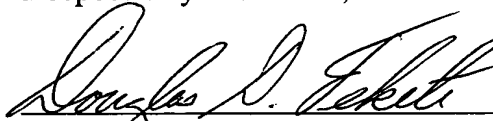
Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that the claims be allowed.

Conclusion

It is believed, in view of the amendments and remarks herein, that all grounds of rejection of the claims have been addressed and overcome, and that all claims are in condition for allowance. If it would further prosecution of the application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the phone number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas D. Fekete", is written over a horizontal line.

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